

**In a 1:30 exam you have 30 for the listening and 1 hour left for the reading and writing. Always do the reading first in aprox. 20' and leave the rest of time for the writing.**

**1) Before you start writing, read the instructions carefully and decide on the form of your composition. Look at the list below:**

- A semi-formal letter (applying for a job, referring to an article you read in a newspaper, addressing to a local authority concerning a topic in your area, etc.)
- An informal letter (suggesting or answering to a friend, giving advice, to a friend, etc.)
- A dialogue (with a friend on a discussion topic, agreeing and disagreeing, giving advice, etc.)
- A speech or presentation (a presentation of a book, a speech on a current topic, etc.)
- A discussion essay (giving advantages and disadvantages, stating for and against arguments on a topic)
- A description (of a place you've been to, an activity you've done, etc.)
- A description of a person
- A narration (of a story, an experience, etc.)
- A newspaper article (for a local newspaper/your school on a personal experience, a
- A review of a film or novel

**2) . Before you start with your text, write down your ideas in short sentences.**

In order to get ideas, ask yourself and answer questions such as where, when, why, how, to whom, from whom what happened, what did they do, what can we do.

**Example:**

You have to write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper concerning recycling containers placed in your area.

Here is the beginning and ending. You have to think about all the problems that these containers have meant in your neighbourhood.

*Sir,*

*I was extremely pleased when our local council eventually placed special bins in the area to encourage recycling. There are, however, several problems.*

*For one thing \_\_\_\_\_ (a completar)*

Finish like this.:

*I do think that these suggestions might help solve the situation. The rest depends both on the council and our neighbours' willingness to act in a more civilised manner. (Name, Surname and ID Number)*

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Ideas:

- The containers are made of flammable material.
- Some jobs burnt one of the bins. Explain what happened.
- Ask whether they could be replaced by another type of containers. Suggest type.
- The containers are near a place where there is a great amount of dry branches. Suggest a new site for the containers

**3) Write a draft with short ideas.**

Write one short sentence for each idea. When you write the definite text you will join them using connectors. For example:

- For one thing, the recycling bins are made of plastic.
- Unfortunately, they were burnt by a group of jobs last night

- They could be replaced by metal bins which are non-flammable

**4) Try to use complex structures as practised during the course: relative clauses, subordinate clauses, comparative clauses, passive structures, reported speech, etc.**

**5) pay attention to word order, connectors and the use of commas and other punctuation details. Finally, revise your text once finished.**

#### **Examples of writing assignments.**

Think of a profession that is dying out, for example a shepherd or a farmer. Write a dialogue with one of the last shepherds / farmers in your country. Talk about their way of life now and before.

You have just read a book with the title *Death of a Beekeeper* by Swedish author Lars Gustafsson. Write a letter to your best friend explaining to him/her what the book is about.

Write about the influence of psychologists on our society. Are they well considered? Could they be the answer to our psychological necessities?

Imagine you have a toxic friend that is ruining your life. Write a letter to him/her explaining the problem and proposing solutions to re-establish your mutual confidence.

You are an Erasmus student at the University of Bergen (Norway). One professor asks you to talk to your class about the Catalan language and culture. Write the text of your presentation.

Imagine you are a journalist. Write an interview with a European commissioner for the protection of minority languages. Your objective is to find out what the European Union is doing in order to protect the rights of those linguistic groups.

Two teachers are discussing the rights and wrongs of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as a school subject. Write down their conversation.

French writer Antoine de Saint-Exupéry said that “the best things people have made [the airplane, the telephone...] are all things that bring people together.” Discuss this statement and say what are to your mind, the best things people have made. Would you say that Internet makes our social life richer or poorer?

You are a journalist. Write a short newspaper story about the labor exploitation of some groups of immigrants in Spain.

You are the representative of your country before the United Nations Organization (UNO). Write a speech addressed to the UNO general delegates denouncing the resurgence of slavery.

Imagine you are a journalist. Write an interview with Aneela Rahman. Your objective is to find out why she is so happy in her “arranged” marriage.

Divorce rates are increasing in Europe. Does this mean that marriage is in crisis? Are you in favour or against marriage? Write a letter to the editor of the local newspaper explaining your opinion.

Write a letter to a friend in London telling him/her about your experience living in the farm and growing organic products.

Using your own words, write an argumentative essay about the advantages of life in the city versus life in the country or vice versa.

Imagine you want to apply for a job as an au pair. Write a formal letter to an au pair agency explaining the reasons why you think you are the ideal person for the job.

Write an opinion essay about the following question. "Is it better to work in your own country instead of working abroad?" Explain the advantages or disadvantages in either case.

You are Nas. Write a letter to a friend in London telling him/her about your experience in a summer camp and how much you enjoyed it.

Some adults are surprised at seeing teenagers behave in a mature way. Do you agree that teenagers are too immature and unprepared for grown-up life? Write an argumentative essay exposing your ideas about this.

"We'll be happier if we work fewer hours and have more free time, we'll socialise more and we can do without piles of consumer goods that we have no need for." Consider this statement mentioned in the text. Write a short essay stating your opinion against or in favour of that affirmation.

Write a letter to the editor of Catalonia Today expressing your views about this article and the concept of growth.

Write an article for your school magazine. Discuss the effects of climate change in your country. Do you think measures should be taken to stop or at least slow down its effects on the planet?

You are doing a research project on animal extinction. Write a letter to your tutor/supervisor explaining how you would like to organise your work and where you intend to look for information about the subject. "Putting tobacco out of sight in shops and removing cigarette vending machines will help reduce the number of smokers." Do you agree with this statement from the text? Are governmental measures against tobacco addiction successful? Write an opinion article in favour or against anti-tobacco legislation.

Imagine you are an activist member of Action Against Smoking. Write a letter to a friend explaining your campaigns and the new restrictions on tobacco display in your country

Write an e-mail to a friend. Explain a trip you have done recently. Talk about the places you visited, when and who with. Mention any interesting or funny anecdotes that happened during the journey.

You are a journalist for a travel magazine. Write an article describing a place you know well. Mention the interesting things to see and do there. Comment also on the historical background and cultural traits. Mention any practical things a traveller should take into account: currency, weather, local customs...